

A QUR'ĀNIC FORMULA OF REMAINING HIDDEN FROM ENEMY SIGHT



On occasions when the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ wished to remain hidden from the sight of the Mushrikūn (idol worshipers). Sayyidna Ka'b رضي الله عنه says, 'He ﷺ would recite three verses of al Qur'ān. Such was its effect that the disbelievers (Kuffār) were unable to see him.'

Those three verses are:

إِنَّا جَعَلْنَا عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ أَكِنَّةً أَنْ يَفْقَهُوهُ وَفِي آذَانِهِمْ وَقْرًا

innā ja'alnā 'alā qulūbihim akinnatan an yafqahūhu wafī ādhānihim waqran

Surely, We have put covers on their hearts, so that they do not understand it, and deafness in their ears.
[Sūrah Al-Kahf 18:57]

أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ طَبَعَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ وَسَمْعِهِمْ وَأَبْصَرِهِمْ

ulāika alladhīna ṭaba'a l-lahu 'alā qulūbihim wasam'i-him wa-abṣārihim

Those are the ones Allāh has put a seal on whose hearts and hearing and vision.
[Sūrah An-Nahl 16:108]

أَفْرَأَيْتَ مَنْ اتَّخَذَ إِلَٰهَهُ هَوَاهُ وَأَضَلَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ وَخَتَمَ عَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِ وَقَلْبِهِ
وَجَعَلَ عَلَىٰ بَصَرِهِ غِشَاوَةً

afara-ayta mani ittakhadha ilāhahu hawāhu wa-aḍalla-hu l-lahu 'alā 'il'min wakhatama 'alā sam'ihī waqalbihi waja'ala 'alā baṣarihi ghishāwatan

Have you seen the one who has taken his own desire as god while Allāh has let him go astray because of knowledge [his or His] and has set a seal upon his hearing and his heart and placed over his vision a veil.
[Sūrah Al-Jāthiyah 45:23]

Sayyidna Ka'b رضي الله عنه says that he related this thing about the Prophet ﷺ to a Syrian who had to go to adjoining Byzantium on a certain business. He went there and stayed for a long time until the local disbelievers (Kuffār) started harassing him. When he escaped from there, they pursued him. At that time, he remembered that narrative and recited the three verses identified there. It so happened as if a screen was placed on their eyes why they could not see this person who was walking on the same pathway the enemies were passing by.

Imām Tha'labi says that he related this narrative of Sayyidna Ka'b رضي الله عنه to a resident of the town R'ay. It so happened that he was put under arrest by the disbelievers (Kuffār) of Dailam. For some time he remained under detention with them. One day he got his chance to escape. They pursued him, but this person also recited those three verses. The effect was immediate. Allāh Ta'ālā screened their eyes in a manner that they were unable to see him – through, they were walking side by side with their clothes touching his clothes.

[Related by Imām al Qurtubi]